

Issue NE-CW1502, released April 15, 2002, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

GENERAL: Above normal temperatures with minimal precipitation last week significantly raised soil temperatures across the State, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Soil moisture supplies were rated very short in large portions of the Central, Southwest, and South Central Districts. As a result, wheat and pastures were being adversely affected. Fieldwork was active as producers anticipate spring planting and spring precipitation. Activities included preparations for spring planting, fertilizer applications, and caring for livestock.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center.

WEATHER: Temperatures last week averaged from five to eleven degrees above normals across the State. Precipitation was minimal with the exception of a few scattered locations reporting in excess of one inch of rain.

CROPS: Wheat condition is behind last year and average, specifically its rated 6 percent very poor, 19 poor, 43 fair, and 32 good. Last year at this time wheat rated 54 percent good and excellent with the five-year average at 62 good and excellent. The crop was jointed on 1 percent of the acreage, compared with 2 last year and 3 average. Moisture is needed for proper growth and development.

Oat planting was ahead of average at 60 percent complete and compares with 19 last year and 47 for the five-year average. Fifteen percent had emerged to date and compares with 2 percent last year and 16 average.

Sugar beet planting is well ahead of last year with 28 percent complete. Three percent had been planted at this time in 2001.

Corn planting made a limited start in several districts with 1 percent seeded to date. This compares with none planted at this time last year and 1 percent for the five-year average. Soil temperatures are reaching favorable levels for germination.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture and range condition rated 7 percent very poor, 22 poor, 45 fair, and 26 good. Conditions a year ago were comparably rated. Limited moisture so far has caused pastures to green up slowly and producers to be concerned about grazing potential.

Cattle and calves condition rated 1 percent very poor, 1 poor, 11 fair, 64 good, and 23 excellent. Calving across the State progressed to 87 percent with calf losses rated mostly average to below average. Reports from the southwest indicated some young calves had pneumonia.

Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of April 14, 2002

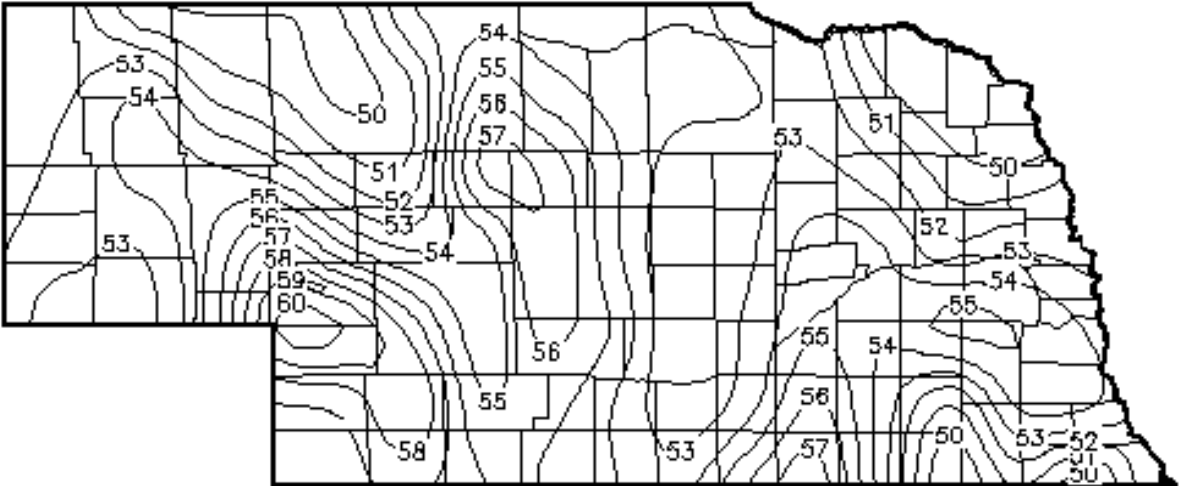
Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	1		0	1
% Wheat Jointed	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	1		2	3
% Oats Planted	40	46	58	55	63	85	84	91	60	39	19	47
% Oats Emerged	16	0	4	1	14	23	33	38	15		2	16
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	6.5	5.5	5.4	6.5	6.3	6.8	7.0	5.2	6.1	6.3	1.6	3.0
Topsoil Moisture - % Very short	30	21	4	74	13	66	55	14	33	29	1	7
- % Short	28	18	31	24	51	29	33	42	31	30	5	14
- % Adequate	42	61	64	2	35	5	12	44	36	41	84	64
- % Surplus	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	15
Subsoil Moisture - % Very Short	21	8	3	27	25	36	28	14	20	20	7	11
- % Short	51	66	34	64	44	43	50	50	50	44	35	20
- % Adequate	28	26	62	9	31	21	22	36	30	36	56	63
- % Surplus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6

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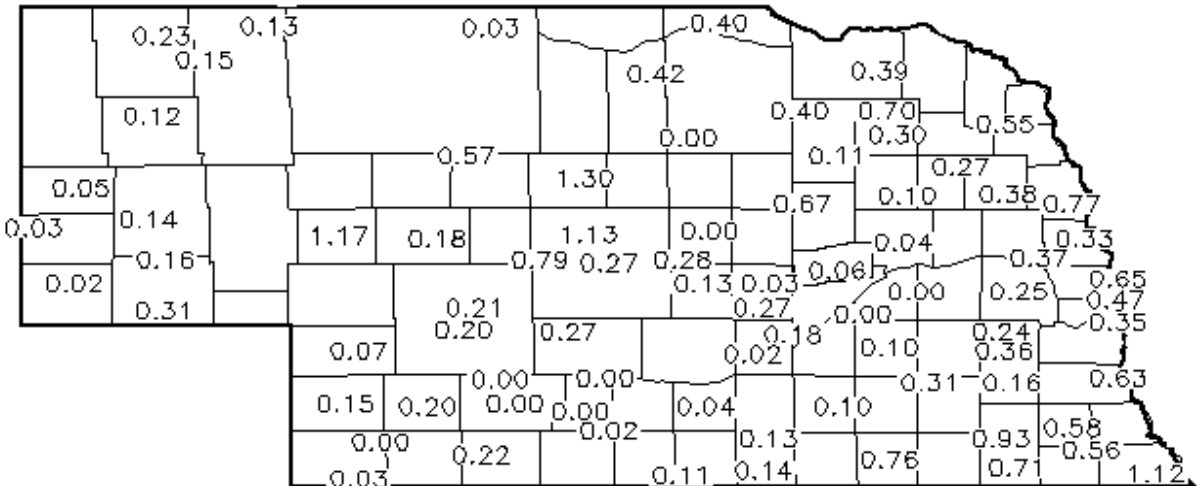
NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS (USPS 679-770; ISSN 0745-0117) is published weekly April-November and monthly December-March in Lincoln, Nebraska, and from other additional offices, by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 298 Federal Building, Lincoln, NE 68508. Subscription is free to survey respondents upon request to NASS, P.O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501, or by calling (402) 437-5541 and available for \$20.00 per year to non-reporters. It is also available free by polling our FAX at (402) 437-5547 after 3:30 p.m. CT. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE & at additional entry offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS, P. O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501.

Seven Day Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 14, 2002



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 14, 2002

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.17	.28	.35	.33	.23	.13	.07	.58
Total since April 1	.23	.30	.35	.33	.24	.13	.07	.58
Normal since April 1	.78	.94	1.12	1.08	1.22	.83	.92	1.24
Total as % of normal	28%	31%	30%	30%	19%	16%	7%	47%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Saturday April 13, 2002

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Mean	Departure
		Max	Min		
NW	Chadron	78	30	52	+8
	Scottsbluff	79	33	54	+10
	Sidney	76	33	52	+10
C	Valentine	76	28	52	+8
NE	Norfolk	78	30	55	+8
	Sioux City	79	23	55	+8
CEN	Grand Island	79	31	55	+7
	Ord	80	27	54	
EC	Lincoln	79	28	55	+6
	Omaha	79	28	54	+5
SW	Imperial	76	37	56	+11
	North Platte	75	29	53	+7

Source: National Weather Service, Valley, NE.